IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Akihiro YASUDA et al.

Mail Stop PCT

Appl. No.

Not Yet Assigned (U.S. National Phase of PCT/JP2004/014753)

I. A. Filed

October 6, 2004

For

FIXING APPARATUS

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop PCT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Applicant hereby claims the right of priority granted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119 and 365 based upon Japanese Application No. 2003-358023, filed October 17, 2003. The International Bureau already should have sent certified a copy of the Japanese application to the United States designated office. If the certified copy has not arrived, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted, Akihiro YASUDA et al.

Bruce H. Bernstein

Reg. No. 29,027

Leslie J. Paperner Reg. #33329

April 10, 2006 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191